

Fort Riley,
Building # 4
4 Barry Avenue
Fort Riley
Riley County
Kansas

HABS No. KS-54-H

HABS
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81-FORIL,
2-H-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY HABS No. KS-54-H

FORT RILEY, BUILDING # 4

Location: 4 Barry Avenue, Fort Riley, Riley County Kansas
USGS Junction City Quadrangle, Universal Transverse
Mercator Coordinates: 14.692260.4326365

Present Owner: Department of the Army

Present Occupant: Brig. General Williamson

Present Use: Single family officers quarters

Significance: Building # 4 at Fort Riley was the only single family officer's quarters built in 1903. Its design and ornamentation reflect that of Buildings # 97, # 99, and # 103, which were duplexes built that same year. Building # 4 is nearly identical to its neighbors, Buildings # 2 and # 5 Barry Avenue, which were built in 1889 and 1904 respectively. Erected during a boom phase of construction after the post became a school for the training of cavalry and light artillery forces in 1886, Barry Avenue residences were constructed in chronological order, beginning with the commander's residence, Building # 1, built in 1889, and ending with Building # 5 to the east, erected 1904. The avenue's chronological development displays the army's increasing tendency to favor designs with less ornamental detail. Building # 4's rock-faced machine-cut limestone walls contrast markedly with the smooth-faced limestone walls of the quarters built during the 1850's, as does its Queen Ann styling. Building # 4's current resident, Brig. General Williamson is one of only a few female officers to have attained that high rank in U.S. Army history.

PART I: HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of the erection: The Engineer's Historical Record Book and the Real Property Cards, located at the Directorate of Engineering and Housing (DEH) give 1903 as the date of erection.
2. Architect: Unknown. However, William Goding worked with Capt. George Pond, Quartermaster at Fort Riley from 1885-1891, and according to one source, designed all the officers quarters on post except the 1887 houses on Forsyth Avenue and those on Sheridan Avenue (Junction City Union, July 4, 1891). Capt. Pond

designed a layout plan for the post after it became a school for the cavalry and artillery forces in 1886, and his plan included Buildings # 4 and # 5 on Barry Avenue which were built years after he left the fort.

3. Original and subsequent owners: U.S. Department of War, since 1947 referred to as the Department of the Army.
4. Builders, contractors, and suppliers: The builders and contractors of Building # 4 are unknown. However local companies erected quarters on post throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The limestone was undoubtedly quarried locally, where it is found in abundance.
5. Original plans and construction: The original plans of Building # 4 may be found in Record Group 92 at the National Archives, Washington, D.C. Updated floor plans for Buildings # 4 and # 5 are located among the plans and drawings at the DEH office, Fort Riley (see Supplemental Materials # 1 # 2). The original cost of Building # 4 was \$14,570.66, given in the Real Property Cards (DEH).
6. Alterations and additions: Changes in # 4 Barry Avenue are apparent, but there is no data suggesting when the alterations occurred. On the first floor, the small pantry behind the dining room has been converted into a half bath, and the open "butler's pantry" is now an enclosed closet. The kitchen has been substantially remodeled, with new floors and cabinets. The kitchen pantry on the southeast wall now serves as a small office. Upstairs, the front, southeast dressing room as been converted in to a full bathroom. In the attic, the northeast storeroom is now a bathroom on the east and a bedroom on the west. All new yellow pine flooring has been laid throughout the house except for the tiled bathrooms and the linoleum floored kitchen. The old front porch with rounded posts has been replaced with a squared-post porch with a concrete floor. A two-car garage has been built in the rear. This was probably a WPA project (Junction City Union, Aug. 16, 1938). Also, in the rear of the ell is a small single-story frame addition which serves as an entry way into the rear of the house.

B. Historical Context:

Building # 4 was erected as part of the surge in construction on the fort after the post became a training center for cavalry and light artillery soldiers in 1886. Always housing cavalry officers, Building # 4 Barry Avenue, from 1923 to 1929 was the residence for a succession of Quartermaster Clerks and their families. Residential development

on Barry Avenue began with the erection of Building # 1 in 1889, designated for the cavalry commander, and ended in 1904 with the completion of Building # 5. The creation of Barry Avenue, ended the physical expansion of the cavalry officers quarters, which began on the cavalry parade south of Forsyth Avenue, and reflects the unraveling of the fort's initially tightknit defensive formation of buildings as the frontier was tamed.

PART II: ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Building # 4 is representative of the simple, plain, single family officers quarters built at Fort Riley during the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. Like Buildings # 2 and # 5, it is a two story T-shaped structure with a U-shaped porch. Only small decorative details distinguish the three buildings. All were built for "cavalry field officers," according to the 1890 plat drawn by Capt. George E. Pond, Quartermaster at Fort Riley. Their rock-faced, machine-cut, ashlar limestone walls mirror the use of stone in other local buildings, as limestone is prevalent while timber is scarce.
2. Condition of the fabric: Building # 4 is generally in excellent condition. The walls and foundation are sound and well maintained. The exterior is all original except for the new facade porch, the small rear addition, and the garage. On the interior, the original floor has been replaced with new pine boards, but the moldings around doors and windows, along with all the original fireplaces, remain intact.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: Building # 4 has a cruciform plan consisting of a rectangular main block running north-south, and two side wings. The facade is four bays across and one bay deep. The side wings are one bay across and three bays deep, and the rear wing is two bays across by two bays deep. The house is two and half stories high.
2. Foundation: Building # 4 has a rock-faced ashlar limestone foundation with a smooth-faced limestone water table one course thick and approximately three feet from the ground, running the length of the house (See HABS photo # KS-54-H-1).
3. Walls: The house has rock-faced ashlar limestone walls, without ornamentation.

4. Structural system, framing: The load-bearing limestone walls support all interior floors and partition walls. The floors and walls rest on wooden joists.
5. Porches: There is a U-shaped porch wrapping around the east end of the main block, ending at the north and south wings. The frame porch has a squared balustrade and a concrete floor. It rests on rock-faced limestone piers and has a low-shed roof of raised-seam metal. The porch is enclosed with screening, and there are concrete stairs on the east and south side of the verandah with wrought-iron handrails (See HABS photos # KS-54-H-1 & 2). At the rear elevation there is a frame one-story, beaded-board porch addition that is one bay deep. It has a low shed roof and plain, flat corner boards. Its concrete floor rests on rock-faced limestone piers. There is a concrete stairway with an iron railing on the west side (See HABS photos # KS-54-H-3 & 4).
6. Balconies: On Building # 4's northwest elevation there is a rectangular (5' x 6'9") balcony above the vestibule, made of rock-faced limestone with rectangular slit openings on the north wall. There is no door, but a large window opens onto the balcony (See HABS photo # KS-54-H-1).
7. Chimneys: Building # 4 has two rectangular, corbelled, interior chimneys, one at the center of the main block and the other at the end of the rear wing.
8. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The front entrance, located on the north side of the facade, consists of five horizontal panels with a single-light transom above (See HABS photo # KS-54-H-5). There is a cellar door under the southwest bay of the rear wing, at the bottom of a concrete stairway. The five horizontal paneled door has a smooth-faced limestone lintel just below the water table. The rear door also has five horizontal panels with a single light transom and a smooth-faced limestone lintel and sill.
 - b. Windows and shutters: There are no shutters on Building # 4. All around the house the windows are one over one sash with smooth-faced limestone lintels and sills. The wooden vestibule's west side wall has a long narrow, three-light window with a smooth-faced limestone lintel and sill. Basement windows, two on each side elevation of the main block and rear wing and one on the west side of the facade, are three-light casement. There is a half-round window in the

gable end of the main block's west elevation with a smooth segmental limestone keystone arch and a smooth-faced limestone sill. At the facade's gable end, there are two smaller windows approximately one and half feet apart (See HABS photo # KS-54-H-1). The east elevation of the main block has a square, paired window on the first story and only one window (centered) above it. In the rear elevation of the rear wing, there are two small two over two casement windows in the gable end (See HABS photo # KS-54-H-3).

9. Roof:

- a. Shape and covering: Building # 4 has a low-pitched, cross gable roof covered with composition shingles. The Engineer's Historical Record Book shows that in the 1930's the covering was slate.
- b. Cornice and eaves: The house has a box cornice with pedimental returns (See HABS photo # KS-54-H-1). The cornice has a simple narrow strip of molding against the walls and plain eaves that overhang slightly all around the house.
- c. Dormers: Building # 4 has a gable dormer on the east elevation of the main block, north of the east wing. The dormer has a molded pediment front, a hipped roof, and shingled walls. It has a three over one sash window which lights the back stairway leading to the attic (See HABS photo # KS-54-H-3).

C. Description of the Interior:

1. Floor plans: The front entrance is on the north side of the porch and opens into a square vestibule (5' x 6'9"). To the east is the reception room (15'7" x 20') which opens to the west into the parlor (23'6" x 16'3") and through a pair of wood paneled sliding doors, is the dining room (15'7" x 20') to the south (See HABS photo # KS-54-H-6). West of the reception room is the kitchen, with an office (7'2" x 8'6") to the south. The three-flight main stairway leads to a long central hall running east to west. Above the kitchen, to the west, is a bedroom and on the east side of the hall is full bathroom. Above the reception room to the west is the master bedroom, while to the east is another bedroom. Finally, above the parlor is the front bedroom, now a lounge area with a full bath on the east side. The rear stairway opens into the attic's southeast corner. To the east end is a bedroom with a sloping ceiling and a half bath. In the east end there is another bedroom, also with a sloping ceiling. Between the bedrooms is a large opened room with sloping ceilings (See HABS photo # KS-54-H-8).

2. Stairways: The main stairway is a three-flight partially open stair which is entered on the south side. It has a square newel post with a rounded cap and a square bull's eye design in the shaft. There is a turned balustrade. On the two walls of the landing facing into the reception room are panels repeating the newel post design. There are beveled corner boards on the stairway's side walls (See HABS photo # KS-54-H-6).
3. Flooring: Building # 4 has new yellow pine flooring with clear varnish throughout. In the kitchen there is linoleum flooring, and in the bathrooms there is tile.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: All walls and ceilings are plastered and painted white, with no decorative features.
5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Building # 4's main entrance consists of a door with five horizontal panels and has an old brass knob with decorative braiding along the perimeter of the plate and knob. All doors throughout the house have similar five horizontal panels and brass hardware, except for the door into the reception room, which has three rectangular panels on the bottom and a single large beveled window above, and the back door into the kitchen's enclosed entryway, which has a single light transom. There are double, five horizontal panel doors that slide into the wall between the dining and reception rooms (See HABS photo # KS-54-H-6). All second floor bedroom doors opening into the hall have single light transoms. In the north bedroom of the attic there is a low, four horizontal panel closet door with plain brass hardware. In the basement there is a wide, five horizontal panel door with a brick segmental arch above.
 - b. Windows: The windows throughout the building are deep-set (about fourteen inch wide sills) and have plain painted moldings above. The second floor and attic windows are low to the ground, while the basement windows are near the ceiling.
6. Decorative features and trim: Building # 4 has picture molding about sixteen inches below the ceiling in all first and second floor rooms except in the kitchen and halls. A ten-inch flat baseboard with a molded top and a rounded narrow band at the bottom exist in all rooms, in the stairway, and in the upstairs hallways. However, the front attic bedroom has a plain flat baseboard and the open attic room has no baseboards at all. There are three fireplaces downstairs. In the reception room, the

southwest corner fireplace has a green and orange glazed tile facing and a hearth with a carved floral design above the tile and a dented mantel shelf with a cornice-line molded edge. The mantel is supported by Doric columns on five inch blocks and the opening has a black metal chimney piece. The parlor fireplace is on the east wall and has a glazed facing with swirling brown, yellow, and white tiles. There is a floral pattern above the tiles, and a simple, molded mantle shelf supported by Ionic columns on squared blocks to either side. There is an ornate black iron chimney piece. The chimney block is approximately one foot deep and on either side there are three plain built-in shelves extending to the entry way. The dining room northwest corner fireplace has the same mantel as the living room but with fluted columns and with the same green tile as in the reception room with the same black chimney piece (See HABS # KS-54-H-7).

7. Hardware: The building has plain brass hardware and turn of the century decorative iron radiators throughout. In the attic and basement bathrooms there are clawed foot tubs and post-World War II basins and toilets.
 8. Mechanical equipment: The house is steam heated via radiators located in all rooms, many of which are ornately decorated and painted white. The main boiler is a Kewanee Type R from Kewanee, Illinois. Steam heating was introduced to Fort Riley in 1889, connecting eighty-three buildings on post to the central system which included seven boilers and a pump-room (located in Building # 72). In the early twentieth century this system was replaced by individual heating plants ("Cavalry Post at Fort Riley," p. 118).
- D. Site: Building # 4 is located on tree-lined Barry Avenue, a residential street that curves from east to west (See HABS photo # KS-54-22). Barry Avenue forms the top of the T shape lay-out of quarters as designed by Capt. George E. Pond for the cavalry officer's quarters. The highest ranking cavalry officers were located along Barry Avenue (see Supplemental Material # 3) Building # 4 itself faces slightly southeast towards the chapels located across the street. Its grassy lot has tall shade trees to either side. The lot is quite large as the neighboring houses are angled in a fan-like pattern towards the arching avenue. Behind the residences is a small service street where garbage is collected and where garages are located.

PART III: SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- A. Architectural Drawings: See description of drawings in "Original Plans and Construction."

B. Early Views:

1. Ca. 1930 photograph in Engineer's Historical Record Book (DEH).

C. Bibliography:

1. Primary and unpublished sources

- a. Clipping Files, Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas.
- b. Engineer's Historic Record Book, DEH.
- c. Junction City Union, on microfilm at the Junction City Public Library, bound copies at Geary County Museum, Junction City.

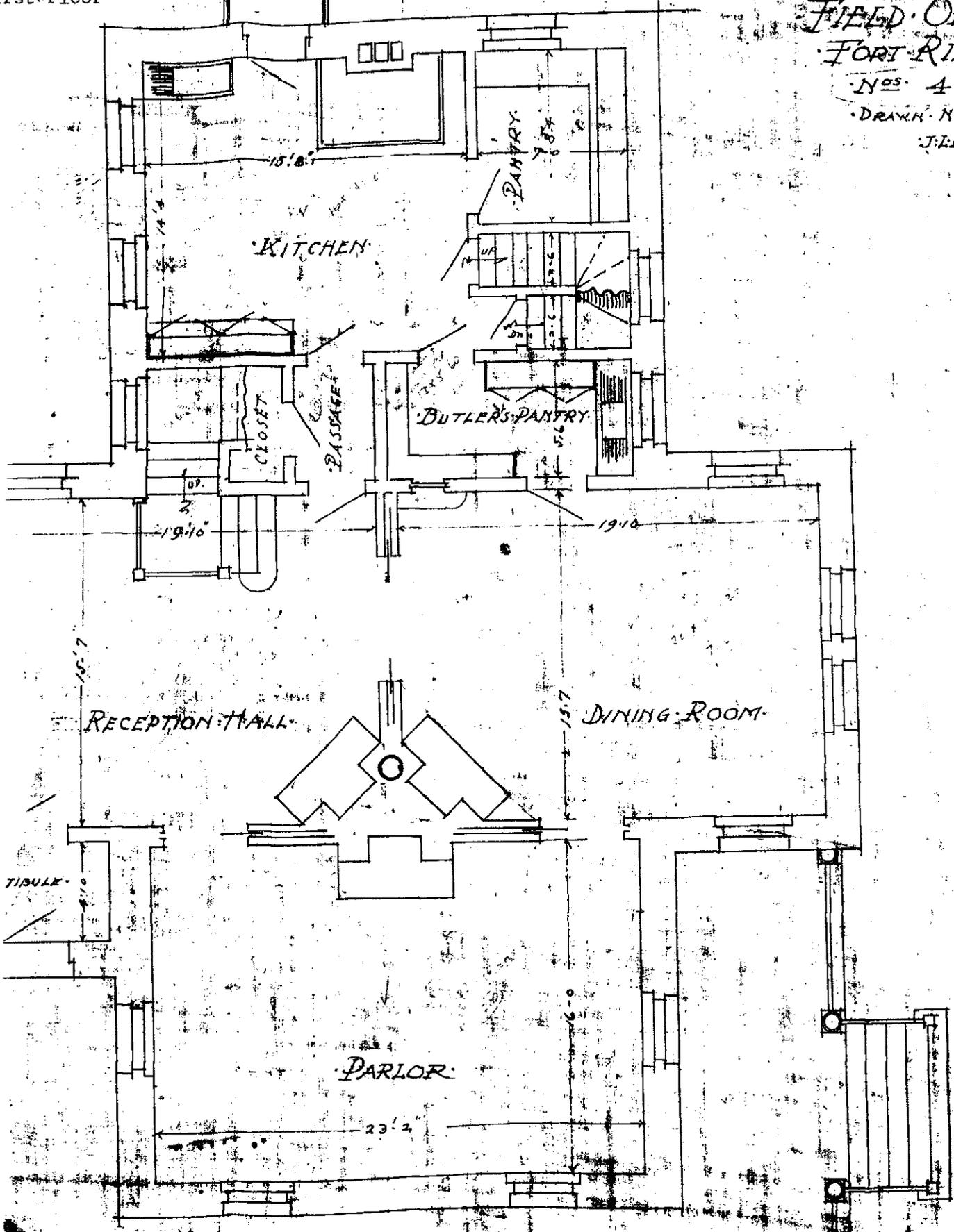
2. Secondary and published sources:

- a. "The Cavalry Post at Fort Riley," Journal of the United States Cavalry Association, Vol. 13 (1902-1903), pp. 118-128.
- b. Harris, Cyril M. ed. Historic Architecture Sourcebook, New York, 1977.
- c. Pride, W.F. The History of Fort Riley. 1926.

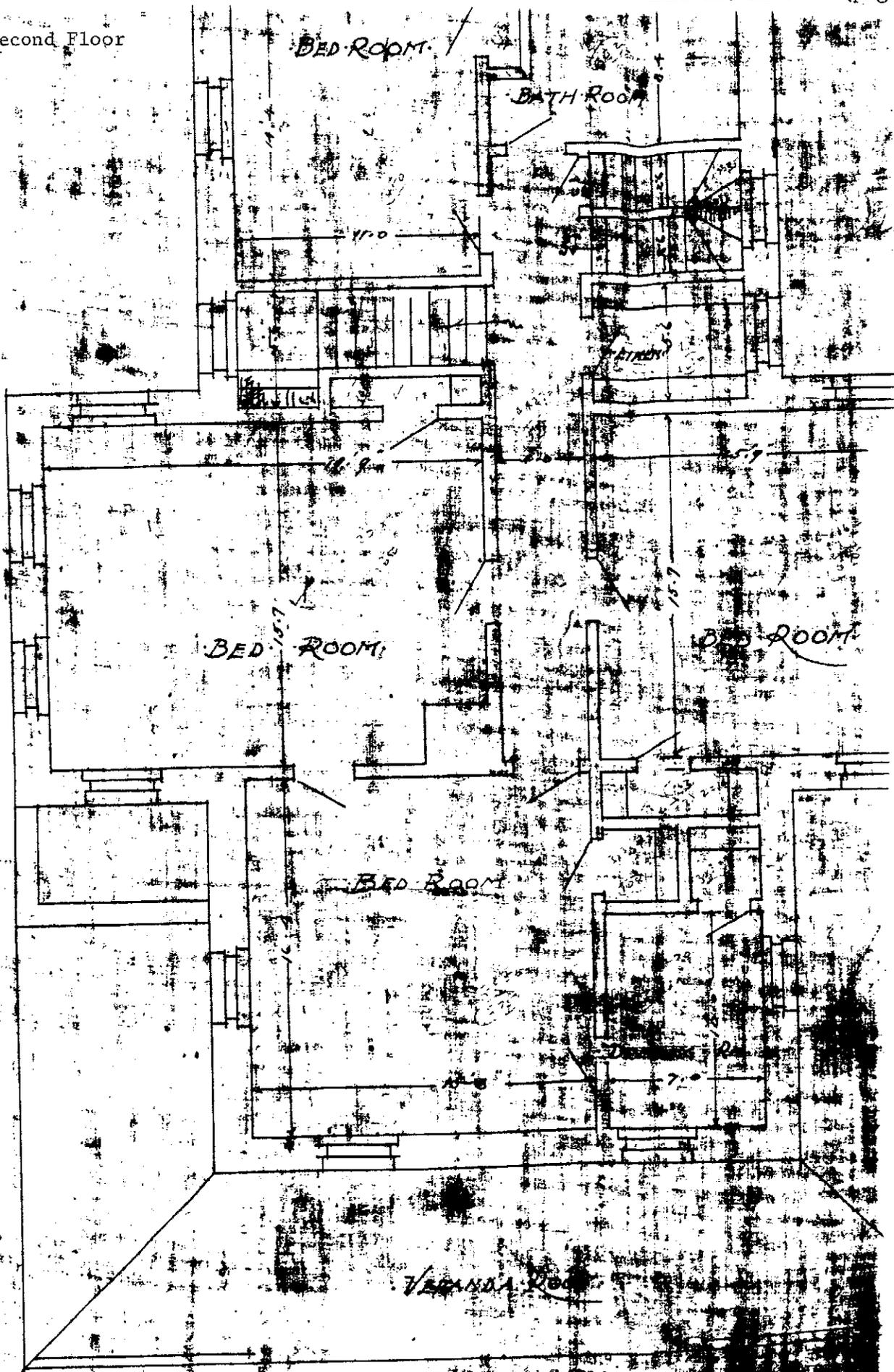
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Summer, 1985

Supplemental Materials
1. First Floor

FIELD OF
FORT RILEY
Nos. 4
DRAWN No
J.L.R.

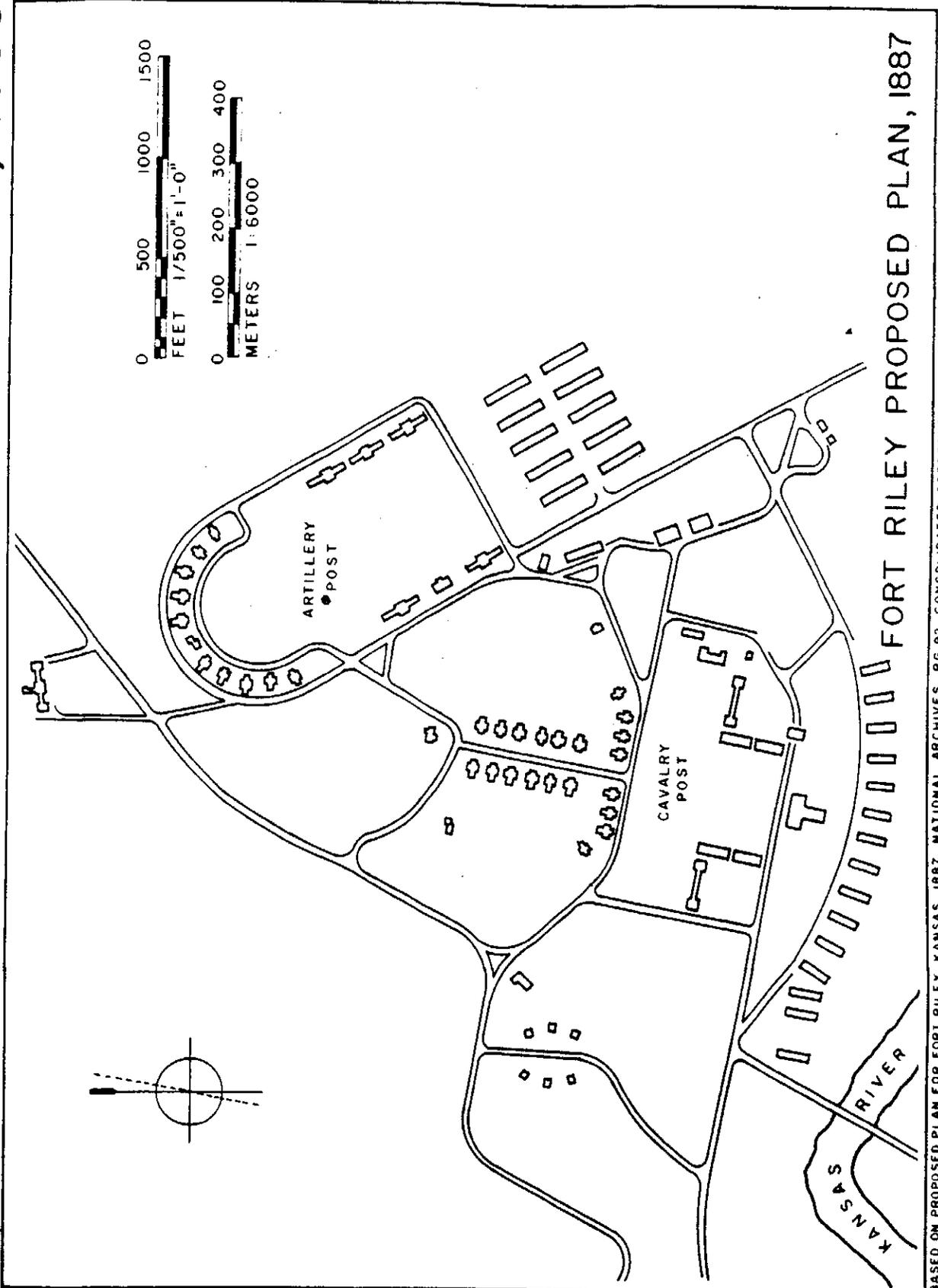


2. Second Floor



3. Fort Riley, Proposed Plan, 1887

PROPOSED PLAN, 1887 AND SITE PLAN, 1985



BASED ON PROPOSED PLAN FOR FORT RILEY, KANSAS, 1887. NATIONAL ARCHIVES, RG 92, CONSOLIDATED CORRESPONDENCE FILES, BOX 915.

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) of the National Park Service in agreement with the post commander at Fort Riley, Kansas and the headquarters of the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Washington, D.C. The project was completed under the general supervision of Robert J. Kapsch, Chief of the HABS/HAER Division. Sally Kress Tompkins served as Program Coordinator and Robie S. Lange as Project Leader. The Field Supervisor was James A. Glass (historian, Cornell University). The project historians were Catherine Crawford (University of Maryland) and Joseph Rodriguez (University of California). Large format photography was conducted by Mike Whye. Documentation was prepared for transmittal to the Library of Congress by Catherine Crawford.